

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00234 111203Z

42

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 DRC-01 SS-20 L-03 INR-10 EUR-06

/053 W

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R 111110Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0234

FOLLOWING TEL IS BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

O 091026Z JAN 74

FM CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

CINCSOUTH NAPLES

CHJUSMAGG ATHENS

COMFAIRMED NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

O 091024Z JAN 74

FM CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

TO COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENSTOR CHF,

ATHENS INFO SHAF

ATHENS. COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENS NOT ADDEE, PLS PASS TO ADDEES.

AMENDED AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF SOUDA AIRFIELD (U)

A. HAF MSG 131307Z DEC 73

B. HAF MSG 311200Z DEC 73

1. (C) REF A INDICATES THAT UNLESS THE AMENDED AGREEMENT COVERING USE OF SOUDA BAY AIRFIELD IS CONCLUDED SHORTLY HAF CONSIDERING ON 1 JAN 74 ENFORCING STRICTLY THE TERMS OF THE 1959 SOUDA BAY AIRFIELD AGREEMENT. REF B ADVISED THAT CONSIDERATION EXTENDED TO 15 JAN 74. SINCE USN AND HAF REPRESENTATIVES ARE COMING TO GRIPS SERIOUSLY WITH SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO QUICKLY REACH FINAL RESOLUTION OF TERMS OF A NEW SOUDA BAY AGREEMENT, DO NOT BELIEVE THIS ELEMENT OF CONSTRAINT REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT COULD AFFECT OUR PLANNING OF NATO-SERVING REQUIREMENTS.

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2. (NC) OPERATIONS FROM SOUDA BAY AIRFIELD BY USN ASW, STRIKE AND

MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT AT CURRENT LEVELS ARE IN DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUPPORT OF NATO READINESS AND MARITIME SURVEILLANCE. IT IS AS MUCH IN THE INTEREST OF GREECE AS A NATO MEMBER, AS OF THE USN THAT THESE OPERATIONS CONTINUE. THEREFORE REFS A AND B ARE VIEWED WITH SURPRISE AND CONCERN. WHILE THE CONTINUED USE OF SOUDA BAY AIRFIELD IS NOT CONSIDERED ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE CONDUCT OF THESE OPERATIONS, ITS AVAILABILITY PROVIDES CONVENIENCE AND MAKES OPERATIONS MORE EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE PARTICULARLY FOR MARITIME PATROL WHILE THE PRINCIPAL RUNWAY AT THE NATO AIRFIELD IN SIGONELLA IS UNDERGOING REPAIRS. THE REQUIRED REVISION IN PLANS AND RELOCATION OF OPERATIONS TO OTHER NATO AIRFIELDS AWAY FROM SOUDA BAY WILL BE INCONVENIENT AND RESULTS IN INEFFICIENT USE OF AIRCRAFT ASSETS. MORE PARTICULARLY THERE WILL BE A COMMENSURATE DEGRADATION IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MARAIRMED SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

3. (C) FROM THE FOREGOING IT IS CLEAR NATO IMPLICATIONS ARE LIKELY TO RESULT FROM REDUCTIONS AND CONSTRAINTS IN OPERATION OF USN AIRCRAFT IN THE EVENT REFS A AND B IMPLEMENTED.

GDS-80 FOR US ADDEES

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